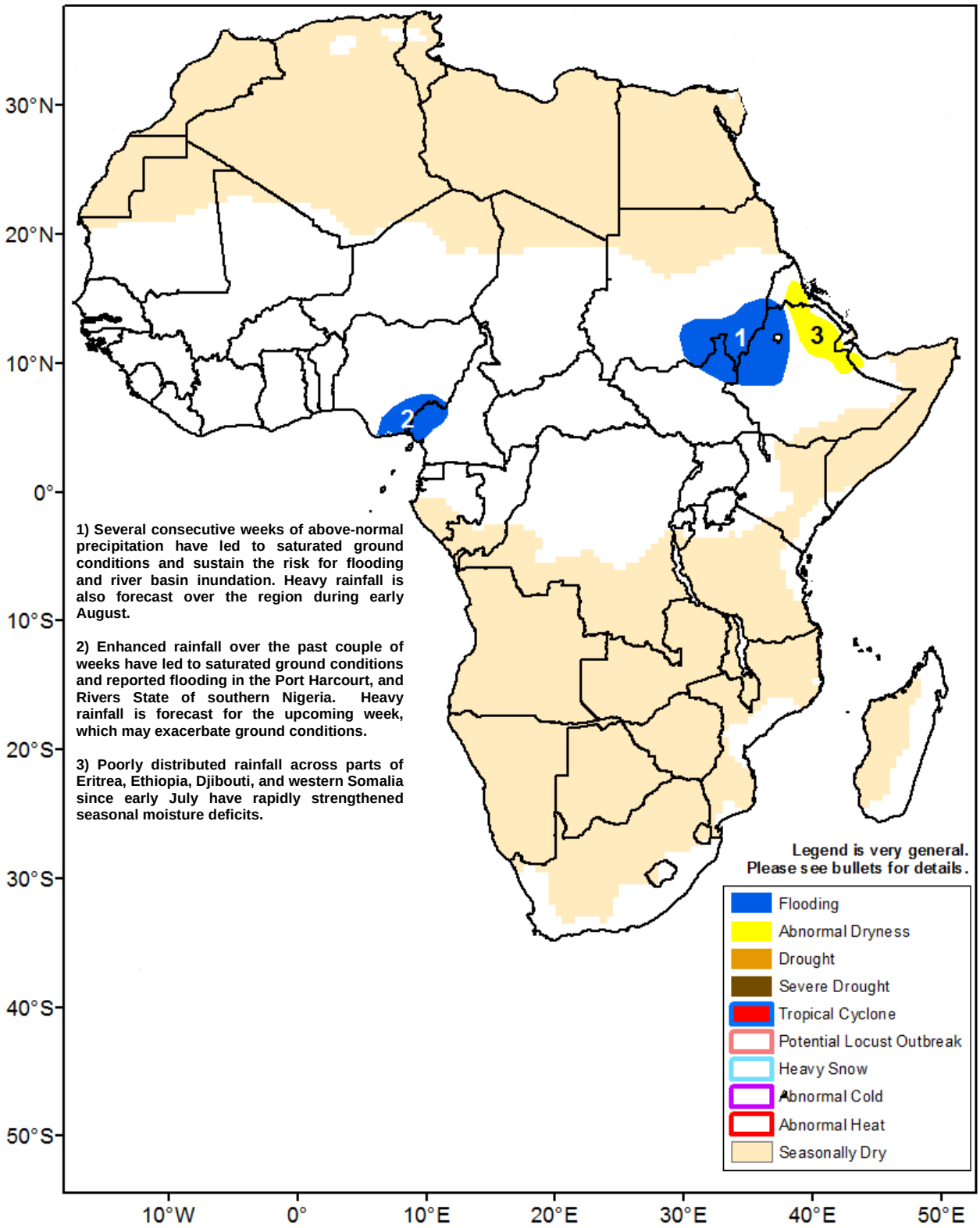
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
August 3 – August 9, 2017

- **Continued heavy rains sustain the risk for flooding across eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia.**



1) Several consecutive weeks of above-normal precipitation have led to saturated ground conditions and sustain the risk for flooding and river basin inundation. Heavy rainfall is also forecast over the region during early August.

2) Enhanced rainfall over the past couple of weeks have led to saturated ground conditions and reported flooding in the Port Harcourt, and Rivers State of southern Nigeria. Heavy rainfall is forecast for the upcoming week, which may exacerbate ground conditions.

3) Poorly distributed rainfall across parts of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and western Somalia since early July have rapidly strengthened seasonal moisture deficits.

Reduced July rainfall leads to developing moisture deficits in parts of West Africa.

During the last seven days, many areas in West Africa received a seasonable distribution of precipitation, with some areas receiving slightly lower than normal amounts. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were recorded across western Senegal and Guinea, as well as over southeastern Nigeria where flooding had been reported earlier in July. Lesser, but well distributed amounts were received in central and southern Mali, and throughout northern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Little to no rains was registered over parts of southern Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Since boreal spring, the performance of the West Africa monsoon has been generally favorable for many countries. In addition to early onsets of the rains, many regions have continued to experience abundant and consistent rainfall through June, resulting in widespread average to above-average moisture conditions to date. However, a slight reduction in seasonal rainfall during July has resulted in the development of moisture deficits in a few areas. Analysis of 30-day rainfall anomalies now depict a strengthening of moisture deficits in portions of central Nigeria, southwestern Burkina Faso and neighboring pars of northern Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana (**Figure 2**). Although long-term moisture anomalies remain much more favorable, the continuations of reduced rainfall in these areas during August may adversely impact cropping activities.

During the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of seasonable rainfall, with the potential for heavy, above-average rainfall over central Mali and in central and northern Nigeria. Lower rainfall amounts are expected across the lower Gulf of Guinea countries, as the ITCZ/ITF continues its northward peak in August.

Enhanced rains continue over western Ethiopia and southeastern Sudan.

According to satellite rainfall estimates, another week of enhanced rainfall over western Ethiopia, with amounts exceeding 100mm in the Oromia, Amhara and Tigray provinces, has now resulted to one of the wettest July's on record in the region. However, little to no rainfall since early July in parts of the eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, Afar regions of Ethiopia have resulted in strengthening anomalous dryness over the past several weeks. Similar conditions are being observed over neighboring highland regions of Eritrea, Djibouti and far eastern Somalia, where many local areas are experienced less than half of the normal rainfall accumulation (**Figure 2**).

During the next outlook period, heavy and above-average rainfall is again likely over western Ethiopia, which could begin to raise river levels over downstream areas and cause flooding in eastern Sudan. Meanwhile, light to locally moderate rainfall accumulations are expected for many anomalously dry regions towards the east.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 24 – July 30, 2017

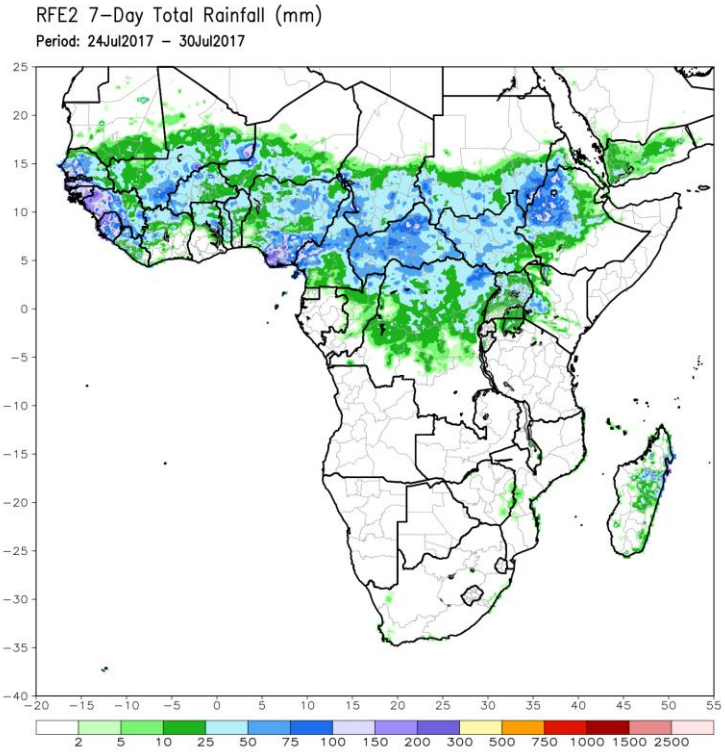


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: July 1 – July 30, 2017

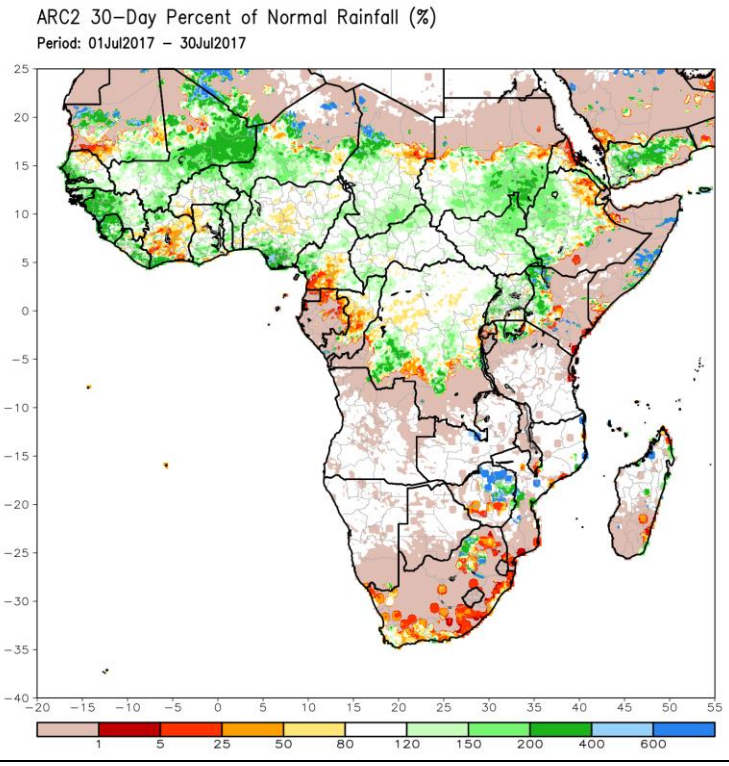


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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